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The columns of the Times-Virginian are open for the discussion of any subject affecting the public good.

Address all correspondence to the Times-Virginian, Appomattox, Va.

Editorial

SAYS WE ARE BACKWARD

Professor W. E. Garnett, rural sociologist at V. P. I., thinks Virginia is a backward state. He has made a survey and comes forth with the information that among other things Virginia ranks number forty-four in the United States in education; number thirty-nine in per capita income; thirty-six in per capita wealth; thirty-third in use of electricity, etc., etc.

The picture of the Old Dominion painted by this sociologist deserves some consideration. The Times-Virginian accepts the veracity of his data without question and admits that we had some mixings that some such low ranking existed in the fields mentioned.

The matter of public educational training will spring forth most to mind from his survey. Forty-fourth! That means that only four states in the union have poorer educational results than Virginia. When we are told that the cause of this lamentable fact is that Virginia has some 300,000 "lower-grade whites" as he calls them, then we are faced with a tough problem. No one will question the statement that certain individuals in Virginia rank as the intellectual equal of any group elsewhere in the world. But, the average is the thing sociologists are after.

Professor Garnett states that even before the depression from one-fourth to one-half of Virginia's rural population was marginal from the standpoint of ability, income and living standards. Poverty, then, is the tap-root of the educational problem. Sterilization of many of this class would be advisable, but it is so far removed from the realm of probability that other avenues must be considered. Families living in poverty produce immense numbers of children. Those able to support children go childless. That's the way it runs. The race is being largely replenished from the lower levels. We suggest to our readers that they study Lottrop Stoddard's "Revolt Against Civilization." And Mendel's Law of heredity.

The vast outpouring of community chest, Red Cross, federal aid and countless forms of charity to the poverty-stricken is noble and commendable. But not one dollar of it goes to solving other than a very temporary problem. A revision of the public school system is the best way to lift Virginia in its rating with other states.

It is difficult to gaze patents in a period of depression, but certainly we may suggest that the time will shortly come when the state will take over the entire public school system. When that does, material progress will be forthcoming, such as cannot be expected under present conditions. Vocational and cultural education, with the emphasis on the latter, will lift over the margin of self-support many of those families now on the dole. Birth control and eventual sterilization will eliminate by degree and after generations, many of those with whom even education will be unavailing. The road to a self-supporting population calls for the utmost efforts of governing bodies.

THE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND TO THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Governor Albert Ritchie, of Maryland, has issued the best possible answer and rebuff to Governor Ralph of California, in the matter of what's to be done with lynchings. The latter lauded the media of San Jose citizens who lynched two kidnappers. The former sent the national guard after those alleged to have lynched a Negro in Princess Anne.

Lynching can be defended on only one ground. If a tremendous crime is committed and the law fails to give punishment, then sometimes we are likely to turn our heads in understanding when enraged people take the law in their own hands. HOWEVER, that situation rarely exists. It existed in neither the California or the Maryland cases. The law would have functioned swiftly and effectively.

If there be those who ridicule Ritchie for sending 300 national guardsmen after nine alleged lynchmen, there will be a greater majority to point to the 5,000 in a mob who turned on one colored man that the law would have punished swiftly. 300 to one isn't as bad as 5,000 to one. It is passing strange that in each case the jails were guarded by armed officers, yet not one shot was fired in defense of civilization. The only satisfactory aspect to the entire matter is the lynchings did not occur in the far south.

AND NOW FOR CHRISTMAS

For months the people of America have read what would amount to many volumes of "sour money," "inflation," "free coins," "public works," etc. Most of use have a right to be head-weary.

It's wonderful, therefore, that now we have the opportunity to lay aside our worries and puzzles for the annual Christmas season. Forget the depression and the financial chaos, and let's all get into the spirit of Christmas. And after it's all over, maybe we will have gone further along the road to recovery than we would have by wrangling over the financial theories of the economists.

Overheard: Bright tobacco grower last week declared, "I just got \$17.50 per hundred for tobacco that I thought was going for \$14.00."

The millionaires are flooding the nation with propaganda for deflated currency. The mass of the people want regulated inflation. It was that mass of people that built the fortunes of the millionaires.

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Country Correspondence

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Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Jennings visited Mrs. J. M. Street at Stoneville Sunday.

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STAPLETON

Evergreen, Nov. 29.—Mrs. E. Glover suffered a stroke Monday morning. W. J. Glover, of Crewe, F. P. Glover, of Washington, L. C., and Mrs. R.

took the Ever-Manner car to the Baptist church Sunday afternoon.

Messrs. Elliot and Barnett, of Washington, visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Farrar, last week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davis and family, of Lynchburg, spent last week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Dinkins.

The oyster and meat supper given for the benefit of the school was a splendid success. Mr. Butler and son, Clifton of Canaville, visited Mrs. H. C. Staples last week. While here she also visited her sister in Lynchburg.

Miss Lovell Hamilton visited Mrs. Taylor Inge, of Pamplin, Sunday.

Messrs. Lewis Paulette and Meade, of Pamplin, were callers in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Young Monday.

Mrs. Joe Dinkins has been spending the last two weeks visiting relatives in Lynchburg.

Miss Minnie Chocklett has returned from a visit to her brother, Jesse Chocklett, of Brooklyn.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Browning, of Richmond, visited his sister, Mrs. Norman Dawson, last week.

J. B. Hamilton, R. T. Smith, O. C. Paulette, John Farrar, H. B. Cralle, J. Mott Harvey, Mrs. H. B. Cralle, Mrs. C. J. Paulette, Jack Paulette, Mrs. S. W. Staples and Miss Mable Staples.

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